

Serial No. 09/447,351
Art Unit 2661

Remarks

By this amendment claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, and 29 have been amended. Claims 6, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28 and 32 have been cancelled. Claim 33 has been added. Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-14, 19, 29-31 and 33 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

In the Official Action of September 8, 2004 the Examiner has rejected claims 3-9, 11-14, 16-26, and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of preceding claims. The Examiner will note that claim 29 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 28 upon which it depended. The remaining claims with the exception of new claim 33 depend directly or indirectly on claim 29 and accordingly are believed to be allowable as well.

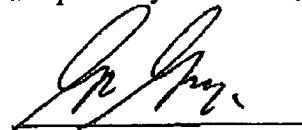
New claim 33 defines a method based on claim 29 and for the reasons that claim 29 is allowable claim 33 is allowable as well.

Although independent claims 6, 17, and 28 are cancelled it cannot be construed that the Applicants herein accepts the Examiner's allegation that they are obvious in view of the prior art. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has given meaning to terms in the cited references that are not supported by the prior art. For example, the Examiner stated that the programmable switch matrix 24 is equivalent to the packet network of the present application. Such a conclusion is clearly not supported by the description of Ram et al.

In the interest of obtaining early allowance of claims in the present application, amendments in accordance with the Examiner's indication that claims 29-31 written in independent form have been entered.

In view of the foregoing it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favourable reconsideration and action to this end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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